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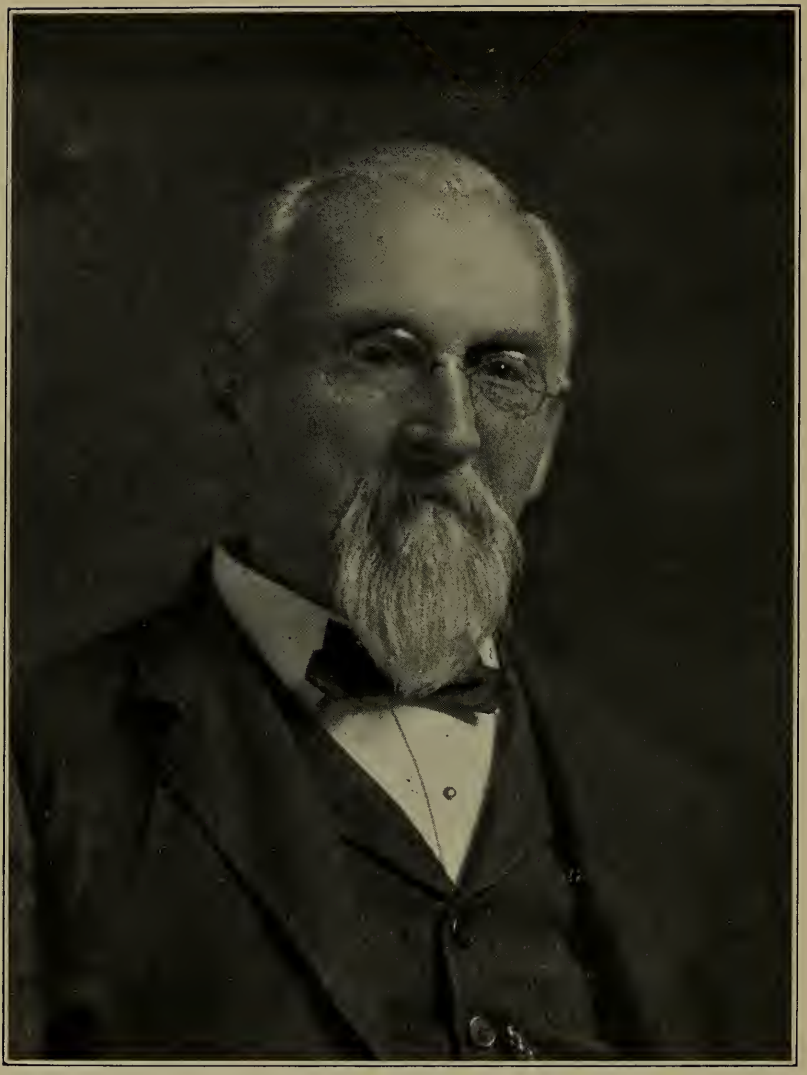
PRINCIPAL SCHOOLS OF ART AND DESIGN

OF THE MARYLAND INSTITUTE.

DIED MARCH 13, 1906.



Maryland institute for the promotion of the mechanic arts, Baltimore.

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MARYLAND INSTITUTE

FOR THE

PROMOTION OF THE MECHANIC ARTS.

Baltimore, March 16, 1906.

A special meeting of the Board of Managers was held this day at 10.30 A. M., present, John M. Carter, president, in the chair, and all the members save a few who were sick or out of the city.

The President announced the object of the meeting was to take suitable action upon the death of Otto Fuchs, Principal of the Schools of Art and Design of the Institute, which occurred March 13th, and to attend his funeral.

Mr. Carter said: "We are under the shade of a great disaster. The Maryland Institute and the community have met a loss which seems irreparable and each member of this board mourns a personal friend. Professor Fuchs died Tuesday night after an illness of only two days, and his death brings to a close a long and useful career in which he has devoted himself with the greatest energy to the cause of technical education. Starting at an early age, he was a teacher in drawing at the Cooper Institute, and then spent some years in the United States Coast Survey. He became a professor of drawing and mechanical engineering at the Naval School, Annapolis, at the time when Admiral D. D. Porter was superintendent there. This was when the engineering corps of the Navy was educated at Annapolis. Professor Fuchs was largely instrumental in installing the machinery and appliances of that branch of the school, as well as prominent in the teaching.

"From Annapolis he went to Boston, and was with Harrison Loring & Co., then the largest shipbuilding firm in this

country. In the evenings he taught in the drawing schools of Boston. When Walter Smith, the distinguished English teacher, resigned as principal of the Massachusetts Normal Art School to return to England, Professor Fuchs was unanimously elected to take his place.

"For a number of years Professor Fuchs saw very active service in charge of that school, which included in its direction the Boston evening drawing schools. He was then selected by the Board of Managers of the Maryland Institute to come to this city and become the principal of its schools.

"For nearly 23 years he has directed the schools of this Institute to the great satisfaction and admiration of the Board of Managers and all other advocates of technical education with whom he came in contact.

"Of wonderful energy and capacity in his work, rarely absent a single day or evening from the exercises of the schools, every class would be visited by him in both schools, lectures delivered, instruction given, teachers encouraged, the work of the pupils criticised, and all continued with such an industry and activity that his physical capacity seemed to be almost without limit. Nearly 1,400 pupils in attendance upon the classes attest the high appreciation of his splendid management, and the great esteem entertained for him both by the faculty and the pupils.

"It is wonderful how much he accomplished in his always busy and useful life. Thoroughly equipped in every branch of technical education, artistic and industrial, his taste and skill were of the highest order. His breadth and scope of education and training made him alike at home in all branches of the school work. Strict and exact as to discipline, he was yet an idol with both faculty and pupils, and as he lies down to rest, he leaves behind him a fragrant memory among all those whom he knew and who loved him in life, as they will venerate him in death."

The president invited remarks from any members of the Board, but there was no response and Mr. George C. Wilkins suggested that in view of the intimate relations which had existed so long between Professor Fuchs and the Managers, the

indisposition or inability of any one present to voice the feeling of dismay and grief at his sudden taking off was the sincerest manifestation of the warmth of their affection and the depth of their esteem for their dead friend.

The following minute was then submitted and adopted and ordered to be placed on the records of the Board and published in the daily papers:

"The death of Professor Otto Fuchs comes upon us as a sudden blow, the effects of which can hardly be realized. His comings and goings, the daily performance of his perennial tasks, his zealous activities, were like the rhythmic movements of some well-balanced engine whose abrupt stoppage jars the whole machinery. To the great work in which for nearly a quarter of a century he has been engaged, he gave an energy which was marvelous and unremitting, coupled with devotion as conscientious as it is rare. His incentive was Duty; no allurement, no thought of self, was ever allowed for an instant to put it aside.

"The result is an institution first in its class in the education provided for young men and women for efficient training as mechanics and artisans, and thousands owe much of their success in their several callings to his instruction, his precepts, his example. Our Schools of Art and Design under his guiding hand, in the adoption of advanced methods, in completeness of work and in earnestness of effort, have achieved a record for efficiency, thoroughness and discipline unsurpassed by any others. They will be an enduring monument to his greatness.

"Of an intellect virile, alert and resourceful, with the advantage of training in the service of the Government, in great industrial establishments, and in other technical institutions, he brought to the useful career which has just closed here amidst universal sorrow and with every mark of public appreciation, a sufficiency of preparation, an independence of thought and action, an enthusiasm for every cause and object he deemed worthy, which inspired all with whom he came in contact, whether instructor or learner, and a broad experience which justified his distinction as apt administrator, great teacher and successful author.

"His long association with the members of this Board made each of us his loving friend, and to recall his sterling worth, his resolution, his steadfastness, makes the parting a bitter one and fills our hearts with tears. To the long-time partner of his life we extend our tenderest expression of profound sympathy in her overwhelming loss."

The Faculty of the Schools presented the following report of its action and it was ordered to be included and published with that of the Board:

"The Faculty of the Maryland Institute Schools of Art and Design wish to express to the Board of Managers and to the family of the late Professor Fuchs our sympathy and sense of personal loss in the great trouble which has come upon us by the death of our dear friend and master.

"All who knew him, either as pupils or fellow-laborers, knew how to appreciate his untiring efforts for our common good, and all who came under his influence felt the warmth of his kindness, which made his associates and pupils his friends and children and profited by the example of a life led unselfishly for the highest ends."

The Board then adjourned to attend in a body the funeral services at St. Michaels and All Angels P. E. Church, where hundreds of the friends, former pupils and associates of Mr. Fuchs had assembled to testify by their presence to the respect in which he was held.

An almost unprecedented honor to a private citizen was the action taken by the General Assembly of Maryland on the death of Professor Fuchs, the following joint resolution having been adopted by both the Senate and House of Delegates:

"Be it resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That its members have heard with the keenest sensibility the distressing intelligence that the useful and honorable life of Professor Otto Fuchs of the Maryland Institute Schools of Art and Design has come to an end. Gifted beyond the ordinary measure of human endowments, irreproachable in point of character, placed by his talents and attainments in a situation

that enabled him to leave a deep impression upon the minds and energies of many pupils whose careers, creditable both to themselves and to the State, have born indisputable testimony to the worth of such a preceptor. It is meet that this action of the General Assembly of Maryland should enduringly attest the high position that he won in the confidence and gratitude of the community, whose higher welfare he did so much to promote."

The esteem in which Mr. Fuchs was held by the public is evidenced by the following extracts from editorials of the daily papers of the city.

The *Sun* said:

"Thousands of persons in Baltimore and elsewhere, some young, others in middle life and not a few well advanced in years, have heard with profound regret of the sudden death of Professor Otto Fuchs, for 23 years director of the Maryland Institute Schools of Art and Design. Active, industrious, skilled in his profession and full of sympathy for his pupils, Professor Fuchs was a successful teacher and manager in one of Baltimore's most important institutions. He was a self-made man. Coming to America at the age of 12, his first employment was in a piano factory, then in an architect and civil engineer's office and later in Cooper Institute, where he taught mechanical drawing. Night schools enabled him to advance in theory as fast as experience was gained in practice. From mechanical drawing he extended his studies to free-hand drawing, and ultimately mastered other branches of design, so as to become well-fitted for the post of professor of drawing in the Naval Academy at Annapolis and for the direction of the mechanical and architectural departments in an art school at Boston. Thence he came to Baltimore and justified his practical training by excellent results in the management of the Institute. In addition to his culture in art, Professor Fuchs was well fitted for his work by a cordial and attractive manner that won him the love and esteem not only of pupils, but of the public generally. Popularity in his case is a testimonial of capacity, skill, energy, probity and love of one's fellow-man."

The *German Correspondent* thus gave voice to the sorrow of the German section of our people:

"After but three days illness with pneumonia Professor Otto Fuchs, the eminent instructor at the Maryland Institute and its Principal for many years, has peacefully passed away. His death is a heavy loss to the city; still a heavier loss to the Institute which his untiring efforts have brought to such a flourishing condition. * * * * During the twenty-three years in which he devoted all his energy, his vast experience and practical knowledge to the Institute he has brought its schools to a high standard of perfection—a model Academy of Art, which can hold its own alongside the best in the land. He was an excellent pedagogue, with a quick eye and the requisite amount of enterprise. What he approved as beneficial, he attained by an iron will and determination. * * * *

"Professor Fuchs was a glorious man; although he arrived in this country as a boy and became a thorough American, he remained at the same time a staunch German, and belonged to many German Associations, where he was highly respected and much beloved as a man of pleasant manners and sterling qualities. His death leaves a vacancy in German circles and at the Maryland Institute which it will be hard to fill. Nobody, of course, is unreplaceable, but some men do remain unreplaced."

The following extracts from letters received will show the wide-spread respect and appreciation of Mr. Fuchs and his work:

His Excellency, Edwin Warfield, Governor of Maryland:—"I am greatly grieved by the death of Professor Fuchs. I always respected him, and I realize the great loss which the Maryland Institute has sustained through his death."

His Honor, E. Clay Timanus, Mayor of Baltimore:—"I shall be present at the church to-morrow morning to pay my respects personally to the memory of our friend, Professor Fuchs, as well as to represent the city which has lost a valuable citizen."

M. Bates Stephens, State Superintendent of Public Education:—"I am sorry that absence prevented my attendance at

the funeral of Professor Fuchs, for I was anxious to show respect to the memory of the man who had filled such a large place in the educational sphere. I regret more than I can tell you his sad death."

J. H. Van Sickle, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Baltimore :—"It is with much regret that I hear of the death of Professor Fuchs. His work in the City of Baltimore has made his name a household word.

Col. I. Edwards Clarke, U. S. Bureau of Education:—"The Maryland Institute, the City of Baltimore and the cause of Art Education have all met with a great loss."

Leslie W. Miller, Principal School of Applied Art, Philadelphia :—"Professor Fuchs was one of my most respected instructors more than a quarter of a century ago, and I cherish in connection with his memory sentiments of personal regard as deep and warm as my admiration for his personal ability and faithfulness was genuine and sincere. In his death Art Education in America has lost an earnest and efficient officer and a generation of students a genial and sympathetic friend."

John M. Hering, secretary of the Builders' Exchange:—

"We have learned with deep regret of the death of Prof. Otto Fuchs. The news came with a shock to our members, all of whom were especially endeared to him. He was a warm friend of the Builders' Exchange, and on several occasions delivered most interesting addresses before our association.

"We feel that the educational interests of our city have suffered a most serious loss by the passing away of the Professor, whose success in developing in the young men of our city and State a practical knowledge of the mechanic arts has never been surpassed."

The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland paid the following tribute:

"His long and loyal devotion to the interests of this society-together with his signal abilities in the arts, sciences and litera, ture, of which he so often gave proof when participating in its deliberations, has left a void that can never be filled. The proud

achievement that crowns his life's labors, accomplished by his superior administrative talent, and indomitable energy and aptitude as a preceptor and guide of our youth, constitutes an imperishable memorial.

"The imposing honors accorded his remains by a sorrowing community and their highest representatives in the government of our City and State were but a partial reflex of the life devoted to developing the latent talents of our youth, and kindling the fires of ambition's noble rage."

The Technological Society of Baltimore, uttered this generous expression:

"The Technological Society of Baltimore mourns in the departure of Professor Otto Fuchs the eminent Technologist and Teacher, the unassailable character, the true and self-sacrificing friend, and one of its most energetic members.

"His long and useful activity in the realms of the liberal and applied arts as well as his personal and intellectual qualities will always remain a glowing example to his many friends and colleagues and perpetuate him in their memory."

PROFESSOR OTTO FUCHS.

Say not of him who lieth there
  That he is dead.
From that hushed heart so unaware
  For age shall spread

The influence of fullest years
  Of greatest good,
And when the grief-dimmed vision clears
  He shall be understood.

It shall be known how his firm hands
  And kindly will
The path of life for many planned
  And traced, with skill.

Then those who never knew before,
  And never guessed,
Shall know the just and generous power
  In this stilled breast.

There in its long-hid light shall gleam
  This noble soul
Who gave his life for that life's dream
  Just at the goal.

Bertha Hoyt Stewart.

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